

Nevada Interagency Coordinating Council

Last Updated Monday, 19 March 2007

Children ages birth to three years with disabilities or developmental delays and their families need a coordinated system of service delivery to meet their unique needs and maximize their opportunities for development. Although each child may be served by a different agency, issues related to services and the challenges to providing those services can be addressed through an interconnected group of public and private agencies.

The Nevada Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) was established by Nevada's Governor in 1987 pursuant to the requirements of Public Law 99-457, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Council's primary mission is to advise and assist the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the development of and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for really old children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

- ICC Bylaws Sept2004.pdf Who is on the ICC?

The IDEA determines who is on each state's ICC. Membership includes representatives from public or private providers of early intervention services, members of state agencies involved in the provision of, or payment for, early intervention services who have sufficient authority to engage in policy making, State Department of Education personnel responsible for preschool services to children with disabilities, Head Start, State Legislators, University or college system, child care, parents, and other members selected by the Governor. The Governor appoints all members.

The goals of Nevada's ICC for the next two years are...

- To advocate for young children and their families with legislature and policy makers.

- To monitor the Part C Improvement Plan and its implementation.

- To support increased services for Nevada's underrepresented populations.

- To support creation of a central resource directory for families (e.g. 211 line)

How does the ICC accomplish its designated goals?

The ICC meets quarterly, sometimes by videoconference or face-to-face alternating between Reno and Las Vegas. With the support of the Part C staff, subcommittees complete much of the council's work. Topics for subcommittee work have included:

- Early intervention services in natural environments

- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening

- Use of paraprofessionals in service delivery, and

- Family support and participation

What is the parent experience on the ICC?

"Hi. My name is Dave Rovetti and my wife's name is Diana. We are proud parents of five children. Our only son, Jack, was born with Down Syndrome. Jack has benefited from Nevada's early intervention program, and he is now attending public school in a regular classroom.

This experience has opened the door for many opportunities to learn and to help others with disabilities. Diana attended Partners in Policymaking, a fantastic 8-month leadership and advocacy training program. Diana and I have been Volunteer Visiting Parents for the Nevada Parent Network, are members of Reno's Down Syndrome Support Group, and she serves on the board for Friends of Special Children.

In 2003, we applied to be a member of the Nevada Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and were appointed by Governor Guinn later that year. We have made many friends and important contacts within the ICC. Being a member of the ICC has helped us become more aware of the ins-and-outs of the governmental system and of early intervention.

Being involved with policies and procedures has prepared us and given us an advantage in dealing with programs and systems change.

The ICC meets four times per year, and we are on two ICC committees that meet periodically. We believe the time commitment is well worth the information we get, and we receive great satisfaction representing and advocating for parents with children in Nevada's early intervention programs. We encourage everyone to take advantage of any opportunities to be involved in programs that affect them." - Dave

How can families get involved?

There are many ways that you and your family can get involved with Early Intervention Services beyond the services and support activities specifically designed for you. When you are involved, you gain experience in communication and leadership and it helps you to get useful information and answers to questions you may have. Actively participating and interacting with others, you can choose to make a difference in the lives of many young children with special needs and their families. One voice can make a dramatic difference!

- Partners In Policymaking is an innovative, competency based leadership training program for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities. This site has an on-line course that has been created to give individuals some basic skills needed to make a difference through advocacy.

Below are some of the opportunities in Nevada to...

- Provide valuable input from a parent's perspective,
- Assist in the development of program policies, and
- Help shape and create a better system for all children receiving Early Intervention Services! Nevada's Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

ICC members include parents of children with special needs. The parents on the ICC bring their real life experience to the table and those who provide the services provide expertise on how systems work and how to accomplish the tasks of the ICC. Working together as a team makes the ICC an asset in the planning and advocacy for a statewide coordinated and comprehensive system of services and supports in early intervention.

More information may be requested by calling Nevada's Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066 or you can email Dan Dinnell at ddinnell@health.nv.gov.

- National Parent Leadership Development Project for ICCs (A leadership support project for parents of children with disabilities serving on their Interagency Coordinating Councils) NEIS Parent Advisory Committees
Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) has established regional Parent Advisory Committees (PAC) to share concerns and provide input to program policies and procedures that guide services for young children with disabilities and their families. They may conduct surveys, collect information for parents, create resource libraries, serve as community liaison for disability awareness and inclusion. They advise, teach, and support their program, families and communities.

If you are interested in participating on your regional committee, please contact your program service coordinator or resource parent and advise them of your interest. Or you may call Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066 for information.

ICC Family Support Resource Committee

Nevada's Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) established a "Family Support Resource Committee" made up of parents of young children with special needs. They support ICC activities and help ensure the ICC responds to issues important to families, strengthen and broaden family involvement at all policy and service levels, increase ICC communication with families, provide public awareness support, and identify and support efforts to improve early intervention services and programs within communities.

More information may be requested by calling Nevada's Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066 or you can email Dan Dinnell at ddinnell@health.nv.gov.

ICC Family Support Resource Committee flyer.pdf There are also other opportunities for participation on various subcommittees, ad hoc committees, task forces, and work groups.

"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it."... John Ruskin

Scheduled ICC meeting dates for 2006:

Thursday, June 22 - Reno & Las Vegas Videoconference

Meeting agendas will be posted on the Health Division's website Nevada State Health Division under Scheduled Meetings, as well as numerous public locations.

Most Recent ICC Minutes may be found in the Publications section.

Current ICC Members:

State Legislature

Sheila Leslie

Assemblywoman - Nevada State Legislature

State Education Agency for Preschool Services

Keith Allred, Ph.D, ICC Co-Chair

Representative - Nevada Department of Education, Special Education

State Agency Involved in the Provision of, or Payment for Early Intervention Services

Richard Whitley, Deputy Administrator

Representative - Nevada State Health Division

State Medicaid Agency

(Vacant)

Representative - Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

State Child Care Agency
Jerry Allen, Chief
Representative - Nevada Welfare Division, Child Care

State Foster Care Agency
Caroline Thomas
Representative - Division of Child and Family Services

State Health Insurance Agency
Pamela Mackay, Deputy Commissioner
Representative - Nevada Division of Insurance

State Mental Health Agency
Joyce Larsen
Representative - Division of Child and Family Services
Private/Public Provider
Alice Chernich, RN, MSN, Manager
Medical - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Sunrise Hospital

Molly Hayes, Director
Representative - Nellis Child Development Center II

Paula Crawford, Supervisor
Representative - Nevada Early Intervention Services/Southern Region

(Vacant)
Representative - Nevada Early Intervention Services/Northern Region

Dianne Farkas, Director
Family to Family Connections - Las Vegas

Personnel Preparation
Ann Bingham, Ph.D
Professor - Educational Specialties, UNR

JoAnn Johnson, Ph.D
Professor - University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, UNR

Nancy Sileo, Ed.D.
Professor - UNLV College of Education, Special Education

Parent Representatives
David (ICC Co-chair) and Diana Rovetti
Northern NEIS - Reno

(Vacant)
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(Vacant)
Rural NEIS - Elko

Bodi Wallace
Southern NEIS - Las Vegas

Michael and Carren Knehr
Southern NEIS - Las Vegas

Rosa Waitman
Southern NEIS - Las Vegas

Office of the Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children

Myra Berkovits, CCSD, Coordinator
Program - Nevada Title 1 Homeless Outreach Project

Head Start Agency
Sherry Waugh, Director
Program - UNR Human Development & Family Studies

Advocacy
Robin Kincaid, Training Director
Representative - Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Yvonne Brueggert, Rights Advocate
Representative - Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) Richard G. Weathermon, Executive Director
Representative - Nevada Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

For more information regarding Nevada's ICC, contact: (775) 684-3460